

May 25, 1971

Dear fellow senior,

As commencement exercises proceed this weekend, the war in Indochina will continue also. Students at Middlebury have protested and worked against the war for several years now. The Moratorium and November Mobilization in 1969, the Strike last Spring, the April 24th march, the Mayday action and May 5th vigil here in Middlebury this Spring---all were motivated by a deep concern over America's tragic involvement in the affairs of the Indochinese.

We believe that this concern should find expression again. In a way that will remind parents, alumni, and members of the local community of our continuing opposition to the war and the Vietnam policy of the Nixon Administration. We are asking seniors who have endorsed the People's Peace Treaty, and those who have not, to consider wearing an armband during commencement as a symbolic gesture of protest. The armbands will read simply: "I have declared peace with the Vietnamese."

Ultimately, of course, it is the United States government and not individuals which must make peace. But the war is being fought now in our name against a people who are not our enemy. By wearing armbands at commencement, we will attempt to disassociate ourselves with our government's action in Southeast Asia and identify, in a small way, with the principle victims of American intervention in that area.

Thank you,

Steve Early

Bill Marks

Obie Benz

Ann Martin

Marshall Forstein

Judy Salleh

Vassilios Haralambides

Sue Secord

Dan Hodges

Barb Sullivan

Joan Kerrigan

Bob Zuck

P.S. Armbands and a statement explaining the People's Peace Treaty will be available for all who attend commencement.